



Date: 4 December 2018

Media contact: Mark Franklin 6208 6231

'BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE' SIGNALS EXTENSION TO YEARS 11 AND 12 FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Catholic Archbishop of Hobart, the Most Reverend Julian Porteous, has signaled a range of strategic intentions for the provision of Catholic education in the greater Hobart area for the next 20 years. The intentions, based upon the findings of an independent KPMG report *The Greater Hobart Region Catholic Education Review*, include proposals for structural change, targeted strategic growth and optimisation goals.

Fundamental to the 'Blueprint for the future' is the formation of four geographical sub-regions of Catholic schools within the greater Hobart area. The sub-region model is to be a genuine federation of Catholic schools cooperating across enrolment processes, resource sharing, professional development, sharing of services and staff, and the provision of K-12 education.

Three Catholic colleges will begin developing a detailed business case and impact statement to advance the provision of Years 11 and 12 at their existing campuses: MacKillop Catholic College (Mornington, Eastern sub-region), St Aloysius Catholic College (Huntingfield, Southern sub-region), and St Virgil's College (Austins Ferry, Northern sub-region).

In the Hobart Central sub-region, the model recommends the phasing-out of K-2 boys education at St Mary's College and Mt Carmel College, resulting in the retention of St Mary's College as all girls K-12 and Mt Carmel College as all girls K-10. Consequently, the provision of K-4 boys education at St Virgil's Hobart campus site, and the relocation of St Virgil's years 5 & 6 from Hobart to St Virgil's Austins Ferry campus will also be investigated. Guilford Young College Hobart and Glenorchy campuses will be retained 'as is' for co-educational year 11 & 12.

"KPMG's final report offered clear recommendations to schools and clarity around the direction we need to take to ensure Catholic education operates more cohesively into the future, and acts on areas of new opportunity where there is currently unmet demand," Archbishop Porteous said.

"In developing these plans what remained in the forefront of my mind was to meet the future needs of students, offer a range of options for parents seeking a Catholic education for their children, and provide ongoing consultation with school communities."

Archbishop Porteous said that, with these changes, Catholic school provision of Years 11 and 12 will be in line with the Tasmanian government's legislative and structural education reforms.

"It is my expectation that all technical requirements associated with the proposed structural changes are completed by mid-2019. The final proposed structural changes will be issued for comment along with a proposed timeline for development, following further consultation with school communities and approvals by state and federal governments regarding the extension of Catholic schools."

It is not envisaged that any of the proposed changes be implemented before 2021.

The Greater Hobart Region Catholic Education Review: Structural Changes

Eastern sub-region

- Greater cooperation and alignment between existing Catholic schools and colleges on Hobart's Eastern Shore to reduce possible duplication and increase student retention.
- The Tasmanian Catholic Education Office in cooperation with Guilford Young College and MacKillop Catholic College to begin developing a detailed business case and impact statement to advance the provision of Year 11 and 12 education at MacKillop Catholic College, Mornington (Clarence local government area)
- Investigation into the development of a new Catholic school in the Sorell local government area to meet significant unmet demand.

Southern sub-region

- Greater cooperation and alignment between St James Catholic College, Sacred Heart Catholic School and St Aloysius Catholic College focusing on increased student retention.
- The Tasmanian Catholic Education Office in cooperation with Guilford Young College and St Aloysius Catholic College will begin developing a detailed business case and impact statement to advance the provision of Year 11 and 12 education at St Aloysius Catholic College, Huntingfield (Kingborough local government area).

Central sub-region

- Greater cooperation and alignment between existing Catholic schools and colleges within the Central Hobart Sub-region to reduce duplication and increase student retention.
- Edmund Rice Education Australia to undertake further research and due diligence to advance the provision of K-4 education for boys at the St Virgil's Hobart campus site resulting in the phasing out of the provision of K-2 education for boys at St Mary's College and Mount Carmel College.
- Retention of St Mary's College Hobart and Mount Carmel College Sandy Bay as all girls K-12 and K-10 schools respectively.
- Retention of the Guilford Young College Hobart campus for co-education year 11 & 12.
- Retention of Sacred Heart College as a co-educational K-10 school.

Northern sub-region

- Greater cooperation and alignment between existing Catholic schools and colleges within the Northern Hobart sub-region to reduce duplication and increase student retention.
- In cooperation with Edmund Rice Education Australia and the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office, St Virgil's College to begin developing a business case and impact statement to advance the provision of year 5 to 12 education at St Virgil's College Austins Ferry campus (Glenorchy local government area)
- In addition to the development of this business case, Guilford Young College and St Virgil's College are to investigate cooperative arrangements in the provision of specialist year 11 and 12 subjects.
- Retention of Dominic College as a co-educational K-10 school.

The Greater Hobart Region Catholic Education Review: Strategic & Optimisation Directions

In addition to structural changes, Archbishop Porteous has endorsed the following strategic & optimisation directions:

- 'Whole of state' priority to Early Childhood Education (Birth to 4) and the 3-year old Kinder as a natural extension of the mission of Catholic Education Tasmania.
- Advance greater collaboration among Hobart Catholic secondary schools regarding a compatible timetable to allow for blended learning (integration of student-centred, traditional in-class learning with flexible online learning opportunities), and virtual classroom opportunities.
- Increased focus on learning and teaching excellence in science, technology, engineering & mathematics (STEM).

ENDS.